



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
23rd City Council

PO23CC-111

51st Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3535**, S-2026

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS-SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN (VAWC) WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY

Introduced by Councilor LUIGI D. PUMAREN

Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Bernard R. Herrera, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Charm Ferrer, CPA, MPA, JD, Nicole "Nikki" V. Crisologo, Mikey F. Belmonte, Atty. Voltaire Godofredo "Bong" Liban III, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Ranulfo "Tatay Rannie" Z. Ludovica, Atty. Christoffer Allan "Tope" Liguigan, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Vicente Belmonte Jr., Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Nanette Castelo Daza, Imee Rillo, Atty. Jesus Miguel Suntay, Raquel S. Malañgen, Joseph Joe Visaya, Aiko Melendez, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Karl Edgar Castelo, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Kristine Alexia Matias, RN, Victor "Vic" D. Bernardo, Erwin Rey "Cocoy" A. Medina, Vito Sotto Generoso and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri

WHEREAS, violence against women and children (VAWC) remains a serious social issue that affects the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of victims;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004), values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, all forms of violence against women and their children, particularly psychological violence, cause severe mental and emotional anguish, trauma, and long-term psychological distress;



WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to supplement existing protection and justice mechanisms with a dedicated and sustained program for mental health and psychosocial support to aid in the healing, recovery, and empowerment of VAWC victims-survivors;

WHEREAS, in line with the policy and objectives laid down in Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3158, S-2022, otherwise known as the "Quezon City Mental Health Code of 2022," there is an urgent need to establish a dedicated mental health support program for victims of Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) to address the psychological trauma, anxiety, and depression caused by abuse, and to facilitate their holistic healing, recovery, and social reintegration.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Mental Health for VAWC Victims-Survivors Ordinance of Quezon City."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Quezon City Government to promote the mental health and well-being of women and children affected by VAWC through accessible, comprehensive, and gender-sensitive support services, ensure mental health services, and prioritize the safety, recovery, and empowerment of all victims-survivors of violence against women and their children (VAWC).

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following term shall mean:

- a. Victim-Survivor – refers to the woman and/or her child who has experienced or is experiencing VAWC, as defined under Republic Act No. 9262.

SECTION 4. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) PROGRAM FOR VAWC VICTIMS-SURVIVORS. – The Program shall include, but not be limited to, the following services:

- a. Immediate Psychosocial Intervention (Psychological First Aid) – Mandatory provision of initial psychosocial support and debriefing by trained personnel immediately following a report of violence, to stabilize the victim-survivor and address immediate distress;



- b. *Individual and Group Counseling – Provision of continuous, free, and confidential psychological counseling services, provided by licensed mental health professionals (Psychologists or Registered Guidance Counselors) either directly employed by the local government unit or through accredited service providers;*
- c. *Trauma-Informed Therapy – Access to specialized psychological intervention or therapy for victims-survivors suffering from moderate to severe mental health conditions, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or severe anxiety/depression, upon recommendation of a mental health professional;*
- d. *Referral System – Establishment of a clear and efficient referral system to psychiatrists, specialized mental health institutions, or higher-level health facilities for cases requiring psychiatric medication or intensive clinical treatment;*
- e. *Family and Community Support – Conduct of psycho-education sessions for the victim-survivor's support system (e.g., family members, close friends) to foster a therapeutic and non-judgmental environment; and*
- f. *Mental Health and VAWC Awareness – Integration of mental health and trauma-informed care into all local VAWC training, public awareness campaigns, and local government unit service protocols.*

SECTION 5. BARANGAY VAWC DESK. – *The Barangay VAWC Desk, which serves as a frontline service provider under the Magna Carta of Women, shall refer victims-survivors requiring mental health or psychosocial intervention to appropriate MHPSS Program.*

SECTION 6. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PRIVACY. – *All information, records, and reports related to the mental health and psychosocial condition of the victim-survivor shall be strictly confidential in compliance with Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012) and the Mental Health Act. Unauthorized disclosure shall be subject to existing laws and appropriate administrative or criminal penalties.*



SECTION 7. APPROPRIATIONS. – The necessary funds for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be subject to any available funds of the City.

SECTION 8. PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION. – The Quezon City Government, particularly the Quezon City Social Services Development Department and Quezon City Health Department, may enter into partnership or agreement with non-governmental organizations, health agencies, and other stakeholders to effectively implement the Program.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION. – The Social Services Development Department, in coordination with the Quezon City Protection Center and City Health Department, shall be responsible for the implementation of the Program.

Further, the Quezon City Health Department shall be the technical partner of the Social Services Development Department particularly on:

- a. immediate psychological and psychiatric intervention;
- b. trauma-focused therapy and clinical mental-health services; and
- c. development of clinical protocols, referrals, and professional standards.

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR). – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Ordinance, the Quezon City Social Services Development Department, in coordination with the Quezon City Protection Center and the City Health Department, shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to ensure the effective implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.



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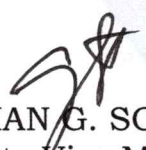
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SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation and its posting in at least three (3) conspicuous public places in Quezon City.

ENACTED: June 8, 2026.

CERTIFICATION

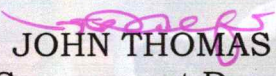
This is to certify that this Ordinance was ENACTED by the City Council on Second Reading on June 8, 2026 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on July 9, 2026.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED: AUG 07 2026


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

ATTESTED:


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(Secretary to the Sanggunian)

